

The Baptist Record

JOURNAL OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION

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Librarian at Baptist Center is former Thai farm girl

By Maxine Stewart

Life is not always easy for farm girls in Thailand. This was certainly true with Tongnak Boonla who grew up on a rice farm in Amphur Pak Pli in Nakorn Nayok Providence.

When the money for schooling ran out, Tongnak wanted to work to earn money for additional schooling. She wasn't prepared to get a job. She had no skills. She got a job working in the home of missionaries Ray and Marge Shelton. She worked until noon and went to school in the afternoon.

"Mr. and Mrs. Shelton taught English classes, using subjects from the Bible," recalled Tongnak. "I studied some with them. We studied the story of the lost (prodigal) son. The impression I got was of a father who was glad when his son came back home and that he loved his son very much! I needed someone to love me like that. I lacked love. John 3:16 helped me to see God's character of love more, but the great answer for me came in John 1:4 when we read 'In Him was Life.' When I was a child I really searched to know where life comes from. No one could tell me. As a child, my life lacked warmth and love and my life was back and forth in a social wave."

As Tongnak heard the Gospel taught and preached, she thought about it a lot. "Thai people are Buddhist," she said. "I knew if I accepted Christ as my God I would shame my family and friends. I know now that a lot of people were praying for me, especially the Shelton family."

In 1966, Tongnak accepted Christ as her Saviour. Soon she met the man who became her husband. He, too, is a faithful Christian. He works in the

Christian Film Library at the Baptist Mass Communications Department of the Thailand Baptist Mission.

"God has shown me the way," Tongnak points out, "and he has protected me from evil. He has taught me through his Word, the Bible, and through missionary teachers and Thai pastors. I came to know that he has given me the burden to tell people about him — everywhere I go."

Since Tongnak has been working at the Baptist Student Center, she has had the opportunity to meet a lot of people who study there. She is the librarian. "I share God's love and his life with the people who came to study (college and university students, nurses, business people, teachers and other professional people, people who want to learn English better hoping to get a job using English) and tell them that only God, through Jesus Christ his Son, can save them from their sins, because HE IS GOD!"

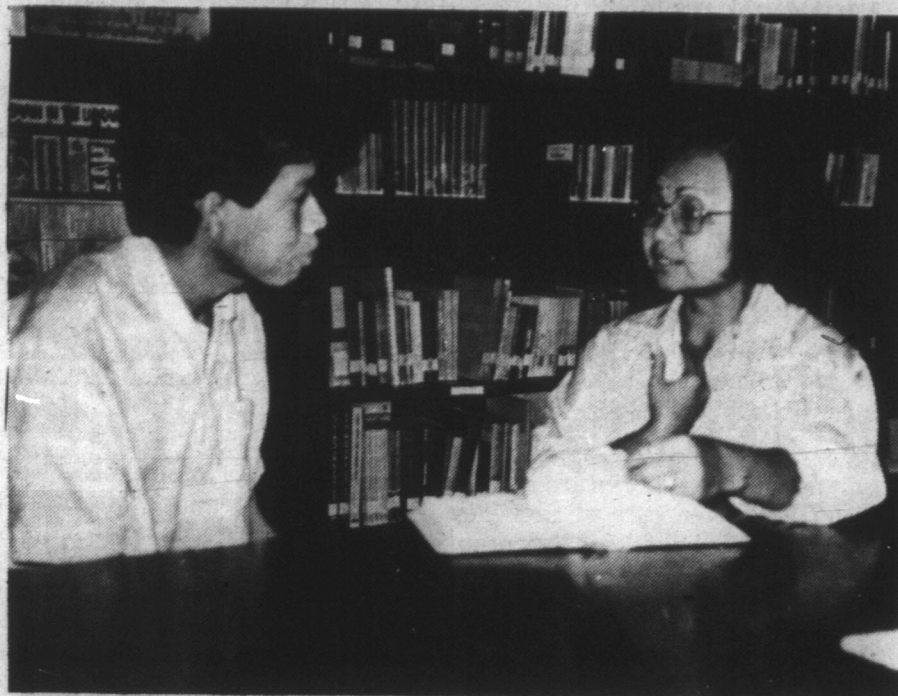
Tongnak and her husband Khian do not earn much money. The cost of living is high in Bangkok. "We thought it would be impossible to ever own a house," she said. "We rented a house, but we also prayed to the Lord and begged for a house from him. It seemed a long way off but it was in the Lord's will for us to have a house. I am so thankful to the Lord that he knows me better than I know myself. I didn't have quite enough money even for school fees for our three children, but there was a house that came available."

The money was coming from God working in the hearts of my brothers and sisters in Christ that they would have a burden to share in one part.

Another part was that God gave me some responsibility to go to him and tell him this, 'O Lord, my God, as you build your house for me and my family to live in, and you give me some responsibility, I know if I borrow the money it will be very hard to repay, but I will try because you are with me.'

In September 1984, Khian was away from home showing the Christian film "Forgiving Love," which was produced by Baptist Mass Communications Department. Tongnak was home with their three children. They have a long day at their church, New Vision Baptist Church, on Sundays. When they returned home she began preparing the evening meal. Her oldest son went out to talk with his friend, a classmate. While they were talking a gang of drunken young Thai men drove up and invited her son to join them. He declined the invitation. They invited him for the third time, but he continued to refuse.

"They were not only embarrassed by my son refusing to go with them," stated Tongnak, "they were angry! They later sought revenge (a rather common practice in that country). That night one of them came to our house with a gun, a sword and a wooden club to kill my son. At first he said a dog bit him and he wanted to kill the owner (not unheard of in Thailand). It couldn't have been our dog as we don't have a dog. Really, no dog had bitten him, but he came to kill my son. He walked around the outside of our house. Fortunately, we had already closed the window shutters and doors and were locked in the house."



Tongnak (Mrs. Khian) Boonla, librarian at the Baptist Student Center in Bangkok, Thailand, witnessing to one of the students who came into the library. (Photo by Maxine Stewart)

"We tried to be very quiet and we prayed to the Lord and cried. I'm telling you how much I was afraid. My heart seemed to fly away or stop running. I told the Lord, 'I know you are with me, but I'm afraid.' My eyes were full of tears. The children and I hugged together and cried with fear."

Early the next morning Tongnak sent her son to live with a Christian friend. "The gang still sent someone to hunt for my son. I tried to think what we could do. If God hadn't let this terrible thing happen to us, I wouldn't have had the strength or the courage to build the house. I lacked faith. This thing happened to my son and I love him. I didn't want him to get killed! It was then that I know how much God loves me as I love my son."

"First, I asked God why he let this terrible thing happen to me, but after-

wards I fell down on my knees to confess my sin to the Lord and asked God to forgive me. I thank the Lord with all my heart that God lets some things happen to us, because he wants us to develop our faith. God knows what is just right for each one of us because he's the Creator! He walks with us and teaches us through his Word and we will know him more and more and will grow in our faith. God knows our weaknesses and sometimes he lets bad things happen to us so that we will trust in him and be close to him. When we get close to him we learn from him, then he wants us to go and tell other people what he has done for us and tell them the way to be saved. That's why I love to witness about Christ and teach the Gospel."

Maxine Stewart is a missionary to Thailand.

Mississippi ranks high in infant mortality rate

By Tim Fields

WASHINGTON (BP) — A national study on infant mortality rates shows that the United States has slipped to last place among 20 industrialized nations, including almost every Western European country, Japan, Canada and Hong Kong.

According to the study by the Children's Defense Fund, a pro-children's advocacy organization, almost 11 children out of every 1,000 born in the United States die before their first birthday.

While Japan has improved its infant mortality rate from 51 out of every 1,000 births in the period of 1950-55 to only six by 1980-1985, the United States has lowered its rate in the same time period from 28 to 11. Other countries with lower rates than the United States include the United Kingdom, 10; Canada, 9; France, 9; and Sweden, 7.

Figures on the United States show that nine of the 10 states with the highest infant mortality rate were located in the South: South Carolina, 14.7; Mississippi, 14.4; Alabama, 12.9; Georgia, 12.9; North Carolina, 12.4; Virginia, 12.1; Louisiana, 12.1; and Tennessee, 11.8. Other southern states with high rates include Kentucky, 11.5; Arkansas, 10.9; Florida, 10.8; Oklahoma, 10.8; and Texas, 10.5.

Furthermore, black infants are almost twice as likely to die as white infants. The report puts the status of black infants in stark terms: "A black infant born within five miles of the White House in our nation's capital is more likely to die in the first year of life than an infant born in Third World countries like Trinidad and Tobago or Costa Rica."

Robert Parham, director of hunger concerns for the Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission, pointed out these figures indicate America's children are not high enough on the nation's agenda for anti-poverty and healthcare programs.

"The infant mortality rate is linked to low birth weight which often stems from malnutrition," Parham said. "Low birth weight, in turn, contributes to a host of problems, including mental retardation, blindness, hearing impairments and learning disabilities. If we invest an ounce of prevention in the next generation of Americans, it will yield us a pound of cure down the line."

In addition to reducing human and financial cost, Parham noted Christian morality calls for care of the weakest members of society — children and poor women.

Margaret Lackey helps build New Hope



B. L. Calcote, center of picture, is shown receiving a check from Odean Puckett, convention board representative from Adams County, for New Hope Baptist Church. The grant for new church plant construction came from funds received through the Margaret Lackey State Missions Offering. Olyn Roberts, director of missions for Adams-Union Associations is witnessing the transaction.

New Hope met and organized into a church on Oct. 5, 1985, with 24 charter members. They purchased a mobile home, and are still using it for their services.

On March 1, 1987, they had a record 75 in Sunday School and 89 in the morning worship service. It became necessary to expand, and now they are in the process of constructing a 36' x 75' building on three acres of land they recently purchased.

This church baptized eleven people during 1986, and has received three by letter since Jan. 1987. They have doubled their membership since their beginning. Despite their own needs, they have faithfully given five percent of their budget to the Cooperative Program, and two percent to associational missions.

SOUTHERN BAPTIST HISTORICAL LIBRARY AND ARCHIVES
Historical Commission, SBC
Nashville, Tennessee

Editorials . . . by Don McGregor

Our children need clothes

Mississippi Baptists' children are facing a problem. There is not enough money to buy clothes for them.

Just about any Mississippi Baptist will say that his children are at least adequately taken care of, and they have all of the clothes that they need.

But such is not the case. Mississippi Baptists have about 600 children who are facing a shortage of clothes unless there is more generosity on the part of the Baptists in the state. They are the children who live at the several installations of the Mississippi Baptist Children's Village.

An advertisement in last week's

Baptist Record pointed out that the income for the program of the Village to "Dress a Child at Easter" is \$50,000 behind the pace of last year.

Though most of these children have parents or a parent, they are looking to Mississippi Baptists to take care of their needs because their parents, for whatever reason, have not properly handled that responsibility. Many of them have been neglected, and all of them are dependent on the Baptists of Mississippi.

This is a matter that needs to be handled quickly.

It's not as if the Children's Village

wants to buy these children some Easter finery that will be worn once and set aside. The children will have new clothes, of course, but they will wear those clothes for as long as they last.

They are dependent on us. We cannot fail them.

The Children's Village provides the only instances in which the Baptist Record asks for money in any way. We Mississippi Baptists have assumed this responsibility, however, and we must take care of it.

The Mississippi Baptist Children's Village address is P. O. Box 11308, Jackson, Miss. 39213.

Bingo leads the way

Gambling finally has come to Mississippi. Governor Bill Allain allowed the bingo bill to become law without signing it.

We've had bingo before, but it was always closeted behind some charitable enterprise and pretty well left alone. Now there needs be no more closeted bingo. It can come out into the open.

The problem is that as it comes out into the open, it will be leading a parade. With bingo being legalized, other forms of gambling will not be far behind. And the plea will be, "We've legalized bingo. And gambling is gambling, so we might as well make it all legal on a statewide basis."

I hope we can all remember this

prediction, for it will come true.

There is nothing to be done now. It is too late.

But we should not be surprised at what will be part of the package as we accept bingo. At this point, those of us who are not used to the patterns that are about to develop over the next few years do not know just what it is that we will be expected to accept. It can be guaranteed, however, that when we can understand what it is down deep in the core of it, we will not like it.

But we have allowed it to come in. Now there is nothing left to do but to await whatever it is that goes with bingo.

It will show up soon enough.

"Bon retirement" for W.C.

Last week's paper had a very enjoyable story on the ministry and the retirement plans of W. C. Fields, the newly retired vice president for public relations and director of Baptist Press for Southern Baptists. In this dual capacity he was a staff member of the Southern Baptist Executive Committee.

The story, which was on Page 1, was a very good presentation and thus little needs to be added to it. Fields, however, is a former editor of this publication, and his retirement cannot pass without a word of appreciation concerning him and his ministry.

He has been a friend since I became associate editor of the Baptist Standard in Texas in 1959 and he assumed his Executive Committee position the same year. Several years back I was selected to accompany him and four other editors on the first joint venture by Israel and Jordan in hosting Southern Baptists in a combined visit to the two countries. It was a very enjoyable and enlightening time.

Because of my journalistic interests, I naturally think first of W.C.'s work in journalism. It must be remembered also that he is a former Mississippi Baptist pastor, for he was pastor of First Church, Yazoo City, just before becoming editor of the Baptist Record.

So while W.C. is not a native Mississippian (he comes from Loui-

siana), we sort of feel that he is part Mississippian because of his ministry in our state.

As he enters retirement (it was March 31), we surely wish him the very best. He plans to travel and fish. He will do well at both.

Big operations pay more than small

DIAMOND BAR, Calif. (EP) — Christian Ministries Management Association's 1987 Christian Ministries Salary Survey shows a 4.5 percent increase in weighted average salary reported for all positions combined over last year's survey. In 82 percent of cases reported, organizations with annual revenue over \$5 million paid more per position than those organizations with revenue under \$5 million.

Churches reported paying their top executive 17 percent more than Evangelistic Associations and other ministries. The second and third highest paid executives in churches and fellowships received 73 percent and 64 percent respectively of the top executive's pay.

The survey results, presented in a 113-page publication, include salary ranges of 90 positions in non-profit Christian organizations.

Guest opinion . . .

What the Cooperative Program is not

By David Michel

Usually on Cooperative Program Day we celebrate the virtues of the financial plan which has made Southern Baptists the most effective mission denomination in the world. But rather than repeating all the good things about the Cooperative Program, let's explore some things the Cooperative Program is not.

The Cooperative Program is not everyone's "cup of tea." Some folks would rather designate their gifts to specific ministries. A Cooperative Program gift cannot be designated or limited. It gives everyone a chance to have a part in all that Baptists are doing. It is by nature designed to represent the ministry concerns of a large and diverse Baptist family. The cost of such wide scale representation is the loss of some individual preferences. If you want to make a designated gift, the Cooperative Program is not for you.

The Cooperative Program is not a substitute for missions. Many times the Cooperative Program is equated with missions and is personalized by relating experiences from the lives of foreign missionaries. Then a stock phrase is used like, "this ministry is possible because of your gifts through the Cooperative Program." Although the statement is true, Cooperative Program giving is not a way to purchase mission involvement. If the Lord is calling you or one of your children into missions, he cannot be "bought off" with Cooperative Program gifts. Neither can your church excuse itself from evangelism and local mission concerns because it contributes a "fair percentage" through the Cooperative Program. If you are

looking for an easy way out of mission involvement, then the Cooperative Program is not for you.

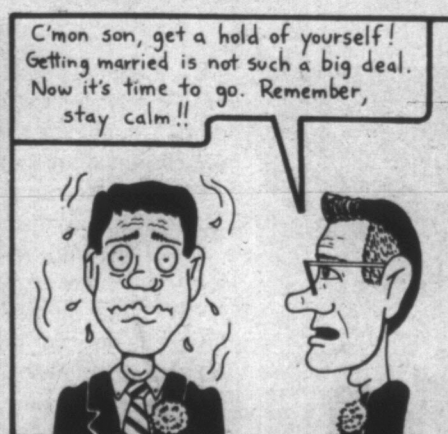
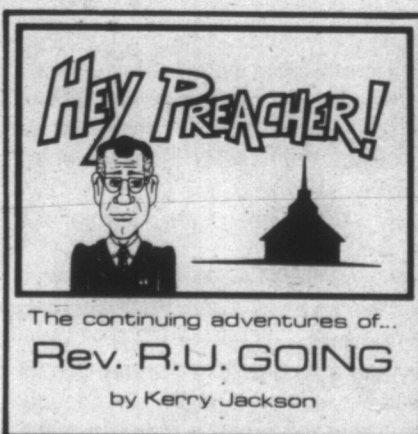
The Cooperative Program is not romantic or sentimental. There seems to be a widespread notion that the Cooperative Program is the heart of world-wide missions. Then, when someone discovers that only 18 percent of Mississippi Baptist Cooperative Program gifts make it to the Foreign Mission Board, there is terrible confusion and disillusionment. In reality, the Cooperative Program has never been the heart of world-wide missions. The love of God in Jesus Christ is the heart of missions.

The Cooperative Program is more like a Baptist circulatory system. It carries financial life blood to every area of Baptist life. Now that's not very romantic, but it is practical. Missionaries come from local churches which are strengthened in part by Convention and Associational Conference paid for by Cooperative Program gifts. Missionaries need a Bible centered education which often begins at one of three Mississippi Baptist Colleges supported by the Cooperative Program. Missionaries prepare for service through an in-depth seminary experience which is paid for largely through Cooperative Program funds. None of these ministry programs could be called world-wide missions by itself. But all of these, combined with a host of other moral and benevolent concerns, have built a missionary system that is without equal in the world. The Cooperative Program is not romantic, but it works.

The Cooperative Program is not

self-sustaining. Just because it has served Baptists well for 62 years doesn't mean that it will go on forever. The strength of our mission endeavors can be lost through neglect of the Cooperative Program. Or, congregations can grow in understanding the Cooperative Program by participating in the decision-making opportunities offered by the convention. Baptists can grow in personal appreciation for the Cooperative Program by participating in the mission service opportunities offered by the various agencies of the convention. Continuing progress toward the goals of Bold Mission Thrust can be made when churches will grow in giving through the Cooperative Program. One of the best ways to emphasize these truths is by celebrating Cooperative Program Day during the month of April. Inform yourself about what the Cooperative Program is and is not.

David Michel is consultant in the Stewardship and Cooperative Program Promotion Department.



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Indiana leaders resign in funds use dispute

INDIANAPOLIS (BP) — The executive director and the director of state missions of the State Convention of Baptists in Indiana have resigned as the result of a dispute over the misuse of domestic hunger funds.

Executive Director-Treasurer R.V. Haygood and State Missions Division Director Glen W. Ray resigned March 20 during a special called meeting of the SCBI Executive Committee. Although the committee did not request the resignations, it did accept them — effective immediately — during the 12-hour meeting.

The executive committee March 23 named Lew Reynolds, director of the church growth division, and David Simpson, director of the communications division, as interim "co-advisors." B.J. Watts, Haygood's administrative assistant, was named interim treasurer.

Don Moore, pastor of First Southern Baptist Church of Evansville and chairman of the executive committee, said the "co-advisor" arrangement was agreed on "until we can get on track for a new executive director. Two men resigned and we had a big vacancy with no one in charge."

He added Reynolds will continue to supervise the church growth area and Simpson will take on the supervision of the missions division. "They will work together and I will meet with them on a weekly basis," Moore said.

Moore said the SCBI constitution is specific in its instructions about the selection of an executive director and said the executive committee will meet soon "to get a handle on this."

Moore said he regrets the resignations of Haygood and Ray and said he believes the "whole matter could have — and should have — been settled before it ever got to the executive

committee. It could be handled quietly and easily in staff relationships. But because he (Haygood) chose to handle it in a different arena, it became public and so did some other issues," Moore added.

The chairman said the misuse of hunger funds led to Ray's resignation, but it was "an internal matter, a personnel matter" which led to Haygood's resignation.

During the March 20 called meeting, the executive committee reviewed "a large bulk of materials" on the controversy and called Ray and Haygood in separately for "questions and answers." Both men offered their resignations, Moore said, and the committee "accepted them, with modifications." Moore said the committee decided to accept the resignations "effective immediately" and to grant Ray and Haygood full salary and benefits through September 1987.

The resignations are the result of a three-month controversy over the diversion of \$8,850 in domestic hunger funds to supplement the Church Pastoral Aid budget.

According to Indiana records, missions director Ray requisitioned CPA checks for \$19,700 on Dec. 5, 1986, to pay the salary supplements of pastors receiving assistance. Of that amount, \$8,850 was covered by diverting funds from the designated hunger relief fund account.

Domestic hunger funds are designated gifts distributed by the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board as part of Southern Baptists' program of combatting hunger around the world. Church Pastoral Aid provides funds for small congregations to be able to have a full-time pastor in order to facilitate church development.

The Second Front Page

The Baptist Record

JOURNAL OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION

Thursday, April 9, 1987

Published Since 1877

Larry Lewis nominated as home board president

By Jim Newton

Baptist State Convention in Montgomery.

Lewis explained that the doctrinal statement faculty and staff at Hannibal-LaGrange are asked to support actually is a resolution which was adopted by the Missouri Baptist Convention, which owns the school, and which expects certain minimum standards of conduct and morality.

"We ask our faculty and staff to refrain from use of tobacco, alcohol, and other harmful drugs, that they be active in the church of their choice, that they be clean, upright, Christian examples in daily life, and that they be born-again believers in Jesus Christ," Lewis said.

"We also ask that they support a resolution adopted by the Missouri

Baptist Convention in 1978, which requested that faculty and staff of all four colleges owned and operated by the Missouri Baptist Convention adhere to certain Baptist doctrines," said Lewis.

The resolution requested that faculty members of the four Missouri Baptist colleges "believe in the inspiration of the whole Bible, the inerrancy of the original manuscripts, the existence of a primeval couple named Adam and Eve, the literal occurrence of the miracles as recorded in the Bible, the virgin birth and bodily resurrection and the personal return of the Lord Jesus."

Lewis said that Hannibal-LaGrange takes seriously the resolutions of the Missouri Baptist Convention, but it is (Continued on page 6)

ATLANTA (BP) — Larry L. Lewis, president of Hannibal-LaGrange College in Hannibal, Mo., has been nominated for possible election as president of the Southern Baptist Convention's Home Mission Board.

Lewis, 52, will be recommended to the position by a seven-member search committee during a called meeting of Home Mission Board directors on April 10.

Letters with a resume of Lewis were mailed March 30 to the 84 directors of the Home Mission Board and to editors of Baptist state papers by the chairman of the board and chairman of its search committee. The letters asked that the information be kept confidential until after the election April 10.

News of Lewis' nomination broke publicly in the April 1 issue of the Atlanta Constitution.

Troy L. Morrison, chairman of the search committee recommending Lewis for the position, confirmed the nomination, saying the committee was unanimous in its choice.

"We regret that the news was leaked to the secular press, but we have nothing to hide and want to be open and honest with Southern Baptists," said Morrison, director of church-minister relations for the Alabama

Suspects sought for arson at Sunshine Church, Pearl

By Tim Nicholas

Arson has been ruled the cause of a fire that destroyed the six-year-old sanctuary of Sunshine Baptist Church in Pearl, late Sunday night, March 29, according to John Chamblee, chief deputy with the state fire marshal's office.

Chamblee said that there was no word on suspects as yet.

Pearl fire chief Robert Trigg told the Baptist Record that the Pearl Police Department had three detectives assigned, two from the state fire marshal's office, and that the federal Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms Bureau was involved. The federal agency moved in when it was determined that the arsonist used gasoline in the fire, gasoline being an interstate commerce product.

Chief Trigg said that though no definite connection has been made,

the team was trying to reconstruct events at the church since prior to a church split last September. "They've had a number of things to happen out there," said Trigg. "There has been sugar put in gas tanks and roofing tacks thrown on the parking lot." He added, "We're going to stay on it till we reach a conclusion."

Meanwhile, church members are considering the fire's results as positive. A name change under consideration for months, was voted this past Sunday. The church is now Park Place Baptist Church.

New pastor Bobby Williamson, formerly of Meadville Church, said the new name better represents the church which is in a fast-growing area of Rankin County. "The spirit of the people has not been dampened in the

(Continued on page 6)



Sunshine Church, Pearl, lost its sanctuary late Sunday, March 29. Fire investigators have ruled arson as the cause. Church members, undaunted by the blaze, have voted a new

name for the church, Park Place Baptist, and are ready for new growth. (Tim Nicholas photos)



The charred pages of the organ hymnal had been turned to "Pass it On," which has for its first line, "It only takes a spark to get a fire going." A member saved the book from the rubble at Sunshine Church.

Associations join in commitment to campaign

Below is a breakdown by associations of churches who have committed to The Mississippi Mission endowment campaign as of April 1, 1987.

Alcorn: Tate Street, Corinth — \$66,000;
Attala: Ebenezer, Ethel — \$1,000, Parkway, Kosciusko — \$6,500;
Bolivar: Chinese, Cleveland — \$2,500, First, Cleveland — \$88,000, First, Rosedale — \$1,500, Providence, Cleveland — \$7,000, Shaw, Shaw — \$12,000;
Calhoun: First, Vardaman — \$15,000, Lanthrip, Bruce — \$2,000, New Providence, Pittsboro — \$4,200, Oak Grove, Pittsboro — \$1,000, Providence, Banner — \$500;
Clarke: Enterprise, Enterprise — \$20,000, First, Quitman — \$35,000, First, Stonewall — \$8,000;
Copiah: First, Hazlehurst — \$75,000, Poplar Springs, Hazlehurst — \$2,155;
Covington: Union, Seminary —

\$3,000;
Greene: Antioch, Leakesville — \$3,000, Mahoba, Lucedale — \$100;
Hinds-Madison: Calvary, Jackson — \$500,000, Chapel Hill, Utica — \$5,000, Flora, Flora — \$30,000, Pocahontas, Jackson — \$1,440, Utica, Utica — \$6,500;
Holmes: Main Street, Goodman — \$7,500;
Itawamba: Lakeland, Mantachie — \$1,000;
Jackson: First, Vancleave — \$30,000;
Jasper: Bay Springs, Bay Springs — \$41,000, Fair Ridge, Stringer — \$1,440, Louin, Louin — \$7,000;
Jefferson Davis: Antioch, Prentiss — \$6,000;
Kemper: Bay Springs, Porterville — \$10,000, Center Ridge, DeKalb — \$8,000;
Lawrence: New Hebron, New Hebron — \$30,000;
Leake: Springfield, Carthage —

\$1,500;
Lee: Birmingham, Saltillo — \$6,000, Bissell, Tupelo — \$15,000, First, Nettleton — \$9,000, First, Tupelo — \$135,000, Calvary, Tupelo — \$225,000;
Leflore: First, Greenwood — \$100,000;
Mississippi: Berwick, Liberty — \$5,000, Crosby, Crosby — \$2,500, Ebenezer, Liberty — \$4,000, Enterprise, Liberty — \$2,400, Galilee, Gloster — \$7,500, New Zion, Liberty — \$2,500;
Newton: Sulphur Springs, Conehatta — \$1,960;
North Delta: Dundee, Tunica — \$45,000, First, Tunica — \$6,000;
Northwest: Colonial Hills, Southaven — \$60,000;
Noxubee: Shuqualak, Shuqualak — \$600;
Pearl River: Derby, Poplarville — \$3,000;
Pike: Bluff Springs, Magnolia — \$3,600, Central, McComb — \$40,000,

First, McComb — \$125,000, First, Summit — \$60,000;
Pontotoc: Algoma, Algoma — \$10,000, Cherry Creek, Ecu — \$3,000, First, Pontotoc — \$50,000, Green Valley, Pontotoc — \$1,000, Midway, Pontotoc — \$5,000, Toxish, Pontotoc — \$6,000, Troy, Pontotoc — \$4,000, Woodland, Pontotoc — \$3,500, Zion, Pontotoc — \$10,000;
Rankin: First Fannin, Brandon — \$8,000, Puckett, Puckett — \$5,370, Briar Hill, Florence — \$18,000;
Smith: Clear Springs, Louin — \$1,000, Salem, Raleigh — \$3,289, Sylvarena, Raleigh — \$9,000, Ted, Louin — \$2,000, Walnut Grove, Bay Springs — \$1,000;
Sunflower: First, Indianola — \$50,000;
Tippah: Chalbeate, Walnut — \$6,000, Falkner, Falkner — \$13,125, First, Ripley — \$50,000, Providence, Tiptersville — \$5,000, Shady Grove, Ripley — \$5,000;

Tishomingo: Eastport, Iuka — \$1,000, Iuka, Iuka — \$5,000, Southwood, Iuka — \$1,000;
Union County: First, New Albany — \$125,000, Fredonia, New Albany — \$5,000, Hillcrest, New Albany — \$25,000, Ingomar, New Albany — \$10,000, Macedonia, Myrtle — \$6,000, Old Oak Grove, Myrtle — \$5,000, Wallersville, New Albany — \$11,000;
Washington: First, Greenville — \$235,000;
Wayne: First, Waynesboro — \$15,000;
Webster: Bluff Springs, Eupora — \$2,000, Edgeworth, Eupora — \$2,000, Lollars Grove, Eupora — \$4,000, Philadelphia, Gore Springs — \$6,000, Sapa, Eupora — \$4,000, Walthall, Walthall — \$6,000;
Yalobusha: Hopewell, Water Valley — \$3,000;
Yazoo City: First, Yazoo City — \$120,100.

Relief arrives in Ecuador; Baptists help

By Marty Croll

QUITO, Ecuador (BP) — Baptists here are preparing to distribute about 30 tons of Southern Baptist provisions for earthquake-stricken Ecuadorians.

A cargo jet packed with food, blankets, clothing, building materials, and tools landed in Quito March 24. Although the provisions were unloaded that evening, a nationwide strike caused a two-day delay in distribution, said Larry Doyle, chairman of the organization of Southern Baptist missionaries assigned to Ecuador.

Ron Patterson, pastor of Lynchburg Baptist Church, Winterhaven, Fla., and a regional disaster relief coordinator for the Brotherhood Commission, is helping organize distribution.

"Baptists here are very grateful for all of this," said Doyle. "You can be assured it will be put to very good use."

Missionaries are working with Ecuador Baptists in a relief program they planned together the week after two powerful earthquakes jolted an area east of the capital city in early March and destroyed sections of the region's most important roadway and the country's most important oil

pipeline.

Missionaries have rented about 3,200 square feet of warehouse space at the airport. From there they and national Baptists plan to distribute the provisions primarily in four areas during the next three months, Doyle said.

Surveying regions suggested by Ecuador authorities, missionaries discovered people without homes and without food in villages cut off from commerce when whole sections of road were destroyed.

In the city of Lago Agrio, First Baptist Church has turned its Sunday school facilities into a distribution center for food and supplies. The provisions will be airlifted to the city, which sits at the edge of the jungle on the eastern face of the Andes Mountains. The major thoroughfare in that area was destroyed when mountain snowcaps and watery sludge rumbled down a river valley after the quakes.

In Tabacundo, about 50 miles northeast of Quito, food and supplies will support about 90 families whose breadwinners have been forced to

abandon their work while they rebuild their homes, Doyle said. Baptist young people from the 15 churches in Pichincha Baptist Association around Quito will visit house-to-house in the area around Cayambe, the village nearest the epicenter of the earthquakes. They will give away packages of food that should feed families of five for five days.

Baptists also will supply tools and building materials to six families who lost their homes just east of Quito in the town of La Merced, Doyle said.

The families were identified by students at nearby Baptist Theological Seminary, who went into the grade school and talked with children, then visited their homes.

After meeting immediate needs, missionaries may ask for volunteer work teams from the United States to rebuild schools and public buildings, Doyle said, stressing such action would occur only in cooperation with the government's education department and local authorities.

The Boeing 707 that carried the provisions to Ecuador had been scheduled to take off more than a week

earlier, but jet fuel availability problems in Ecuador delayed its departure until just after noon March 24. The government agency INNFA, responsible for working with children and families, was instrumental in securing jet fuel for the plane's return flight, Doyle said.

The food, clothing and building supplies were purchased with money provided by the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board, the Florida Baptist Convention, and Florida Baptist churches. State Brotherhood departments from Texas, Oklahoma, Louisiana, and South Carolina also gave funds. Marty Croll writes for the FMB.

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"America's cities will not conquer us"

NEW YORK (BP) — The newly-elected director of the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board's church extension division has called for greater cooperation among churches as the denomination seeks to win America's cities for Christ.

"America's cities may confuse us, but they will not conquer us," said David Bunch of Atlanta in his first major presentation since election as director of the division charged with starting new Southern Baptist churches in the United States.

"Rather than looking at the cities as churning seas of humanity, Baptists need to perceive them as penetrable ponds of people," Bunch told participants in a national Southern Baptist church extension leadership conference.

Mississippians' musical slated for convention

"Meet and Eat, There IS Something More," a senior adult musical written by two Mississippi Baptists, will be performed during the Senior Adult Convention April 27 to 29 in Fort Worth, Texas.

The composers are both residents of Scott County. Irene Martin lives near Harpersville. She will be the

pianist for the convention. She is a member of Harpersville Church. Ann Colbert lives in Forest and is a member of Forest Church.

The musical will be performed by a 300-voice senior adult choir from Louisiana.

Irene is computer operator for the Baptist Record and has been pianist

for senior adult Chautauquas of Ridgecrest and at Glorieta for the past eight years.

"Meet and Eat, There IS Something More" combine music with drama and was written to be performed by senior adults. It was premiered at Parkway Church, Jackson, in March of 1986.

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Convention aid goes to Jones County



At right, MBCB member Harold Ishée (with glasses) hands Valton Douglas a disaster relief check for \$1,000 as they stand in what was the den of Douglas' parsonage at Bethlehem Church in Jones County. At left, top, Ishée delivers a \$1,000 check to Evon Ingram, pastor of Lawn Haven Church, which was damaged in the tornado in Jones County Feb. 28. At left, bottom, Charles Davis, in coat, receives a \$1,000 check from MBCB member Larry Kennedy. Davis is pastor of Glade Church which was damaged in the tornado.



Kosciusko library sponsors fair for senior adults

First Church, Kosciusko, media library sponsored a Country Fair for their senior adults, March 26.

The fair offered a combination of recreation, exhibits, events, competition, and an opportunity to join the Country Fair Reading Club for Senior Adults. Points were given for each activity and books or Bibles presented to the participants with the highest score. Mrs. Fred Milner came in first place, Bennie Pettit, second, and Mrs. Grady Robertson and Peyton Bell tied for third place.

Cookies, pies and cakes, were judged by Mrs. Carolyn Patton. Ribbons were awarded to Mrs. Willie Craft, Mrs. J. T. Pearson and Mrs. Gladys Mooney for their cookies. Mrs. C. I. Jernigan, Mrs. Elon Thornton, Mrs. Zelda Myrick, Mrs. Gwin Middleton,

Mrs. Fred Milner, Mrs. Bennie Pettit and Mrs. Izella Morris received ribbons in the cake baking contest. Receiving recognition for their pies were Mrs. Grady Robertson, Mrs. Roy Patton, and Mrs. Lou Doss.

Another highlight of the day was the display of crafts made by senior adults. Quilts, afghans, pillows, tablecloths, napkins, placemats, dolls, stuffed animals, decorated eggs, wooden items, and collars, were displayed.

The person who reads the most books in the reading club will receive a copy of Billy Graham's book, *Unto the Hills*.

Mrs. Carolyn Hulsey is director of the media library. Mrs. Kay Atwood, promotion director for the media library, was in charge of the event.



Senior adults visit country fair in First, Kosciusko library.

Armed men rob Uruguay Missionaries

By Wally Poor

MONTEVIDEO, Uruguay (BP) — Two men who gained entrance on the pretense of asking for food robbed Southern Baptist missionaries Jimmy and Peggy Bartley of money and other items valued at \$1,600.

The Bartleys, from LaGrange, Ga., and Harlingen, Texas, were in their home here, preparing to leave for their church's Wednesday night service March 18 when the robbers appeared.

After gaining entrance, the men displayed a gun and a knife, demanding all the money in the house. Included in the money taken was \$75 in offerings from the previous Sunday service which Bartley was taking to the church treasurer, and \$250 in funds from the Baptist Theological Seminary where he is the administrator.

This was the first time in more than 33 years as missionaries that the Bartleys had been robbed.

Wally Poor is a missionary to Uruguay.

Students will work in Jamaica

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. (BP) — Eleven students were commissioned as the first National Baptist Student Union summer missions team at the recent national BSU retreat here.

The singing and witnessing team will work in Jamaica June 10-22, said John Corbitt, national director of the retreat.

The commissioning service was

Midwestern announces luncheon

KANSAS CITY, Mo. — Alumni and friends of Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary will gather for the school's annual luncheon and meeting during the 1987 Southern Baptist Convention in St. Louis.

The luncheon will be held at the

Senior adults at Gulfshore to hear McKeithen, Pearson

Senior Adult Weeks at Gulfshore Baptist Assembly include three special features. Glen Pearson, retired surgeon from Hattiesburg, will be on the Gulfshore campus for all four senior adult retreats with conferences on "Senior Adults and Their Health." He will dialogue with the participants on health problems. In addition, he will work with Ethel McKeithen in Sessions I and IV in the crafts section illustrating his artwork which he maintains that anyone can do.

Miss McKeithen's plans include sharing of ideas on crafts and hopefully, the participants will be able to begin making their own creation to take home with them as well as suggestions for future use. Senior adults are encouraged to bring their choice craft work for display.

Anita (Mrs. John) Renfro, Star, has written a song for these retreats entitled, "I Love the Autumn Years," in keeping with the theme of the conferences "Coming of Age—the Autumn Years." Special music will include Gulf Coast groups and two senior adult choirs will bring programs: May 19, Fellowship Choir, Ridgecrest, Jackson; May 22, Mature Notes, First Baptist Church, Quitman.

Each of the participants couples will receive a complimentary color cover inspirational type booklet entitled *The Autumn Years*, written by J. Clark Hensley, interim senior adult consultant.

Senior Adult Conference I has been designated as Horace Kerr Week and Senior adult II and II mini-conferences have been designated Kermit King Week. The booklet is dedicated to Kerr and King in appreciation for their contribution to senior adult ministry development in Mississippi and the Southern Baptist Convention.

Those planning to attend should register by sending \$30 per person to Frank Simmons, Gulfshore Baptist Assembly, Henderson Point, Pass Christian, MS 39571. Please indicate which conference one wishes to attend.

The five-day conferences are May 11-15 and Aug. 18-22. Cost is \$109.25 per person. Senior Adult II and III, May 18-20 and 21-23 will cost \$59.75 per person.

son. Detailed announcements will be made later for Senior Adult IV to be conducted in August.



McKeithen

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BSU leaders hear about Jesus' servanthood model

By Tim Nicholas and Melissa Coggins

The best type of leadership was the topic of Keith Tonkel, pastor of Wells Memorial Methodist Church in Jackson, who was keynote speaker at the Baptist Student Union's Leadership Training Conference at Gulfshore.

Tonkel told a story of a church which raised missions funds by having members purchase Easter lilies each year. One member started to get one after the services to take to a hospitalized member. "Don't touch that," said a committee member. But, too late, the member discovered the lilies were plastic.

"It made a difference to the Lord whether the leadership is real or plastic," says Tonkel. He says some can smile well or make people feel well. "Do we speak so that attention might be brought to ourselves?" These are the plastic types of leaders.

Tonkel says that when people tell him, "Good sermon, Keith," he's missed something. He'd rather hear people say, "What a wonderful Savior we have."

He said that a leader won't evade issues and will command more respect from those he or she leads by letting them know the leader is a "fellow struggler in Jesus Christ." A person who is "already at the mountaintop and feels sort of sorry for all the peasants coming behind," is not a real leader, Tonkel indicated.

Tonkel told of his attempts to play drums. His father told him that he was a fine drummer, but he couldn't keep the beat. Tonkel likened a leader with one who is a "keeper of the beat who listens to the giver of the beat."

Tonkel pictured the type of leadership Jesus portrayed when, hanging

on the cross and all others had turned away, he asked the Father to forgive them.

A man in India saw a woman kissing the sores of a sick child and said "I wouldn't do that for a million dollars." Tonkel said that Mother Teresa turned to the man and said, "For a million dollars neither would I... but for the love of Jesus."

"That's the shape of leadership," said Tonkel.

Esther Burroughs, consultant for women in evangelism at the Home Mission Board, talked about "fortress Christians" who spend all their time together instead of going out witnessing. Christ said to follow him and he went out to the sinners and the sick and that's what Christians should be doing, said Burroughs. "We've changed the Great Commission from 'go ye' to 'come y'all,'" she said.

Don Prince, closing speaker, said that in the world, leadership is based on success, getting to the top. According to Christ, said Prince, student work associate in Texas, success is meeting the demands placed on a person and growing in dependence on the Father to be able to meet those demands.

Ed Rollins, a staffer with National Student Ministries in Nashville, told the group he phoned a school asking a school employee about the spiritual atmosphere at the school. She told him that no one had ever asked before. "Evidently," she told Rollins, "no one cares." Rollins told the students, who returned to their colleges across the state to take on leadership responsibilities, "You care."

Melissa Coggins is a journalism major at Ole Miss.

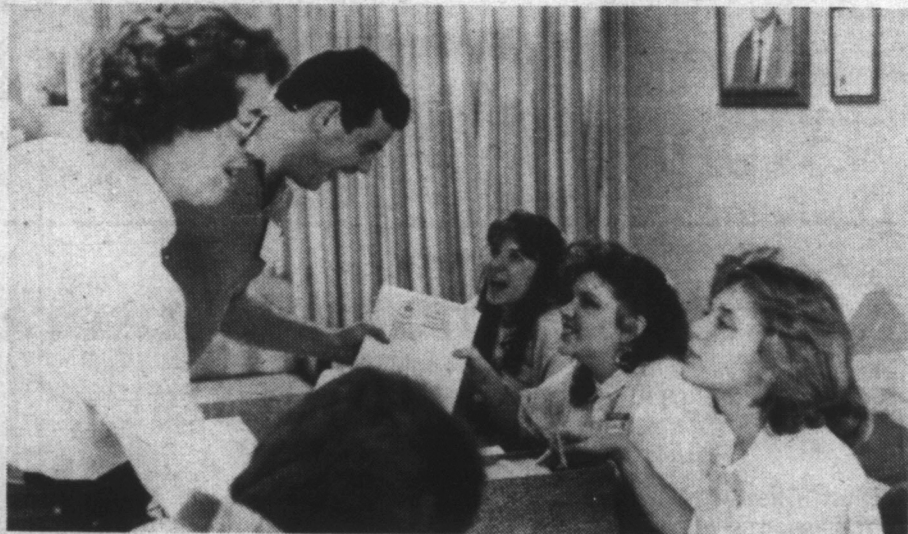


These are the newly-elected officers of Mississippi Baptist Student Union. From left, they are Don Garin, director advisor, East Central Junior College; Phil Wacker, pastor advisor, Summit; Benny Crockett, faculty advisor, William Carey; Executive

Committee members: Elysa Harvey, MUW, Kevin Brown, Itawamba, Kaila Parks, Northwest; Angela Rush, secretary, MC; Scott Neal, vice president, Ole Miss; and Jennifer Dean, president, USM.



Keith Tonkel was among speakers who talked of servanthood.



At BSU Leadership Training Conference registration, Brooks Hester of MUW, B. J. Frew, BSU director at Hinds, and Rusty Thomaston of Carey, get help from Darla Kling, Elysa Harvey, and Grace Barton. Kling and Harvey, both students at MUW, will be summer missionaries to Kansas City and Israel, respectively. Barton, of MC, will go to the Pacific Northwest.

Larry Lewis nominated

(Continued from page 3)

no more a "fundamentalist college" than any of the other three Missouri Baptist colleges which have been asked to abide by the same resolution.

Hannibal-LaGrange, said Lewis, employs about 30 full-time faculty and 40 staff members, has an annual budget of about \$3 million and an enrollment of 759 students.

Before assuming the college presidency in 1981, Lewis was pastor of Tower Grove Baptist Church in St. Louis. Previously, he had been director of religious education for the Baptist Convention of Pennsylvania-South Jersey, pastor of a New Jersey church in suburban Philadelphia, and a church in Columbus, Ohio.

"Larry Lewis is deeply committed to missions and evangelism and comes with a background of both state convention experience and service as pastor of three fast-growing churches in urban settings," said Morrison. "We believe he can give creative direction to the Home Mission Board's emphasis on reaching America's great cities with 'the gospel.'"

Morrison said that that when Lewis was pastor of Parsons Baptist Church in Columbus, Ohio, the congregation grew from 16 to more than 600

members in five years. It also started four new missions.

As pastor of Delaware Valley Baptist Church in Wilmington, N.J., across the river from Philadelphia, Lewis led the church in development of numerous ministries to meet the needs of urban people. Sunday School enrollment at the church increased from 116 to 600 during his five years as pastor. The church led the association in baptisms each year and started four new missions.

In St. Louis, he was pastor of the 5,000-member Tower Grove Baptist Church for seven years. The church sponsored a multiple ministry program including a bus ministry, day care, Christian day school, food and clothing distribution center, work assistance program and job placement service. The church participated in a pilot project which led to development of the Continuing Witness Training program by the Home Mission Board. Lewis was a consultant in the project.

While pastor of the largest Southern Baptist church in Missouri, Lewis was first vice president of the Southern Baptist Pastors' Conference and president of the Missouri Baptist Pastors' Conference. At the 1985 Southern Baptist Convention in

Dallas, he was chairman of the Resolutions Committee.

He also was a member of the SBC Resolutions Committee in 1980.

A native of Missouri who grew up on a family farm near Centralia, Mo., about 50 miles from the college he now heads, Lewis said he understands both the problems of reaching the cities and the needs of rural people.

He said he appreciates all the Home Mission Board has been doing to reach the cities and minister to victims of the farm crisis and is anxious for the board to do more in these areas.

"I'm a church planter at heart," he said. "My greatest joy and fulfillment in life has come in starting a new church and building it into a strong, vibrant witness for Christ. I have a deep, life-long commitment to the Home Mission Board's efforts of starting new churches."

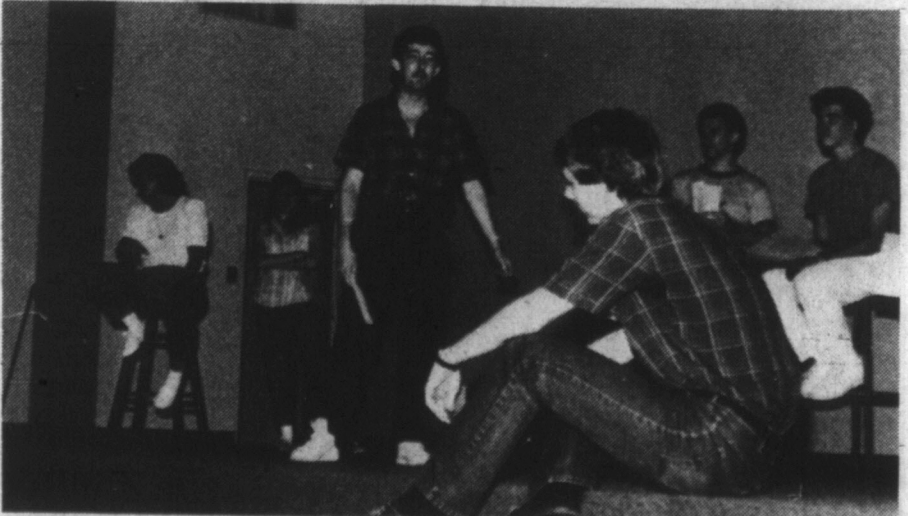
A graduate of Southwestern in Fort Worth, with bachelor of divinity and master of religious education degrees, Lewis also is a graduate of Hannibal-LaGrange and the University of Missouri.

He has a doctor of ministry degree from Luther Rice Seminary in Jacksonville, Fla.

Jim Newton writes for the HMB.



Rich Malone, minister of students at Parkway Church, Jackson, leads the LTC group in a funny version of "Along Came Jones," prior to some more serious music.



ACTS TOO! of Mississippi State, interprets the theme for LTC at Gulfshore, showing that a true leader is a servant.

Suspects sought for arson at Sunshine Church, Pearl

(Continued from page 3)

least," said Williamson, whose first day at the church was April 1.

Williamson said that the April 5 service packed out the fellowship hall where they plan to meet while reconstruction takes place. There were 201 in Sunday School, where before the fire, they had averaged 150. And 13 people joined the church Sunday.

Dee McCardle, media/library director, said that the church had fairly adequate insurance. "We thank the Lord our agent pushed us to get more than we thought we could afford," she said.

Bill Sullivan of the church building

and property committee said the fire was discovered by a policeman at 11:40 Sunday night and the Pearl Fire Department was on the scene within five minutes. The building was 2/3rds consumed by that time, according to witnesses and the fire department directed efforts to keep the fire from spreading to the educational building. Three firefighting units fought the blaze and firefighters were present until after 7:30 the next morning.

Pastor Williamson said that with most records destroyed, with a new pastor, with a new building to go up, and with a new name, "we're thinking at this point of reconstituting as a brand new church."

Devotional

A time of forgiveness

By Alvis K. Cooper

How quickly time passes. Already three months of 1987 are gone. Time and the passing of time occupy our minds. We are reminded of the words of James, "For what is your life? It is even a vapor that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away (James 4:14b)."



Cooper

The preacher in Ecclesiastes said, "To everything there is a season, and a time to every purpose under heaven: A time to be born, and a time to die; a time to plant, and a time to pluck up that which is planted; (Eccle. 3:1-2)." Future time looms before us. Time past is forever gone and becomes unchangeable history. We cannot change the past; we cannot predict the future. We have the present. The present is a good place to be. The present is where God is. The present is where the action is.

None of us can return to the past and undo what has been done, whether it be good or bad. The past has become a prison to those who live in it. The future is a storehouse of possibilities. Past and future can only be acted upon in the present.

Forgiveness is the sword that can cut the cords of the past that bind us. Forgiveness is the only safe road map for the future. Why is forgiveness associated with time? Forgiveness is associated with time because today is the only time it can happen. Forgiveness found its way to an unforgiving world through the person of Jesus Christ, God's son, on an old rugged cross. He has forgiven us without conditions. May we all resolve to receive his forgiveness which allows us to forgive ourselves and to give forgiveness to others. May God give us time to do it.

Alvis K. Cooper is pastor, West Corinth Church, Corinth.

Faces And Places

by anne washburn mcwilliams

In the tradition of John Wycliffe

When I think of my 1955 voyage on the Castel Felice, I remember the handsome Italian sailors. I remember the storm at sea and my days of staggering around seasick, and staying up all night to watch the sunrise after the storm. Evelyn Cleveland was first runner-up in the ship's checkers tournament. Our 14 fellow travelers — mostly college students, had elected Evelyn and me as co-editors of a travel book about our trip to Europe. Some days she and I wrote about our adventures. Some days we assigned to others in our group. Louie Farmer, our tour director, sent the copy home to his BSU office at University of Southern Mississippi, where reproduction and distribution took place. We called the book, *God Was Our Guide*.

A month or two ago I had a letter from Evelyn — who is now Dr. Evelyn Davis — saying that she is going to Indonesia, where she will work with Wycliffe Bible Translators.

She and I have kept in touch through the years. Once I visited her when she was teaching school in the Kentucky mountains. I didn't see her again until she had almost completed her Ed.D. degree at Auburn University. Born in South Carolina, she was graduated from Furman and studied at Southwestern Seminary. Marriage brought ten years as a pastor's wife, but in the early seventies she became a single parent caring for two sons and a daughter. She was a school teacher and then university administrator in several states. Since 1977 she has been director of an educational support services unit at the University of North Carolina at Charlotte and UNCC director of the UNCC/ASU joint master's degree program in adult education.

In recent years, she says, she has felt a growing awareness of the Lord's renewal of the call to missions she received at age 15. And so she plans now to work with Wycliffe. Her first assignment will be on the southern tip



Evelyn Davis

of the island of Sulawesi, Indonesia, where she will conduct training and development activities for Wycliffe staff members.

We often receive news releases about Wycliffe Translators in various spots around the world, and I've read the biography of their founder, Cameron Townsend. Wycliffe Bible Translators continue in the tradition of John Wycliffe, who first translated the Scriptures into English six centuries ago. Since 1934, WBT staffers have completed New Testaments in 200 languages and now have work underway in 800 additional languages in 53 countries.

Their assertion that no secondary language reaches the human heart like one's own, I'm sure is true. Just this morning I received a note from Emily Green, Mississippi missionary, who has completed one year of language study in Costa Rica and one year in Argentina. She was saying that to minister in Argentina she must put down her beloved English Bible where she could easily recognize and quote the verses, and leave it. She must now read the Spanish Bible and memorize its verses. "New missionaries are so vulnerable," she said "when they are new in a language. All

the scripture verses we have known become so unfamiliar and it takes a long time to learn them anew at a time when we need them the most."

Of 5,445 languages in the world, 3,186 still need Bible translation. Wycliffe statistics say that 300 million people still do not have a written form of their language. It usually takes about 15 years to translate the New Testament into a new language. (In one case, it was done in three years.)

Wycliffes work in the areas of linguistics and literacy, as well as in translation. They use literacy specialists and are continually needing more — for if the people do not know how to read the Bible after it is translated — then how can it affect their lives?

It absolutely amazed me to find out that Wycliffe Bible Translators use people with all kinds of talents and are seeking volunteers in these fields — such as ethnomusicologists, builders, accountants and bookkeepers, printing personnel, government relations personnel, nurses, librarians, computer scientists, physicians, buyers/shippers, group house managers, aviation personnel, literacy specialists, secretaries, intercultural community workers, writers, artists, educators, anthropologists, student residence parents, and mid-level managers.

Wycliffe does not pay a salary to any of its members. Usually these needs are met through the gifts of interested churches and individual Christians.

Evelyn said that she would appreciate prayer support and letters from individuals or groups. For more information about her work and about Wycliffe, her address until July will be 4528 Somerdale Lane, Charlotte, NC 28205. Then she will be in Texas for a five-week intercultural communications course before leaving for Indonesia. Then her Wycliffe address will be 19891 Beach Boulevard, Huntington Beach, CA 92647.

Letters to the editor

Letters to the editor must be limited to 300 words and the editor reserves the right to trim those that are longer. Editorial prerogatives must be reserved under all circumstances, and the opinions of the letter writers do not necessarily reflect the views of the staff of the Baptist Record. Only signed letters will be used, but the writer may request that his name be withheld.

"Tongues" not forbidden

Editor:

The Home Mission Board in its March meeting tabled a proposed policy which would prohibit the appointment of any missionary who "speaks in tongues" in private or public prayer.

Let us remember Paul said to for-

bid not to speak in tongues. We should never set ourselves up as judges to determine the presence or power of God in a person's life. Why can't we just love one another and be "one" in Christ.

Timmy Hajre
Union Church

Evasion of commitment

Editor:

The headline dubbed the tragic fiasco as a . . . "RELIGIOUS HOLY WAR." The P.T.L. scandal can't erode the commitment to Christianity of some of the halfhearted and lukewarm. However, here I am most concerned about the hurt that will be felt by Christians similar to my late grandmother.

My grandmother, who died some 20 years ago, was a devout supporter of her church, both in attendance to worship and in financial support. However, I recall that she also was devoted to the radio ministry of Charles Fuller and his Old Fashion

Revival Hour; and I don't recall anything ever happening that caused her to be disappointed in this radio ministry. Her zeal for her radio preacher did not diminish her love for her denomination and her community church, because she had this much love to give. Had she lived in the era of popular T.V. evangelists, she might have been a devotee of one of the evangelists now engaged in this "war." And I can imagine the deep hurt she would be experiencing today if this had come about.

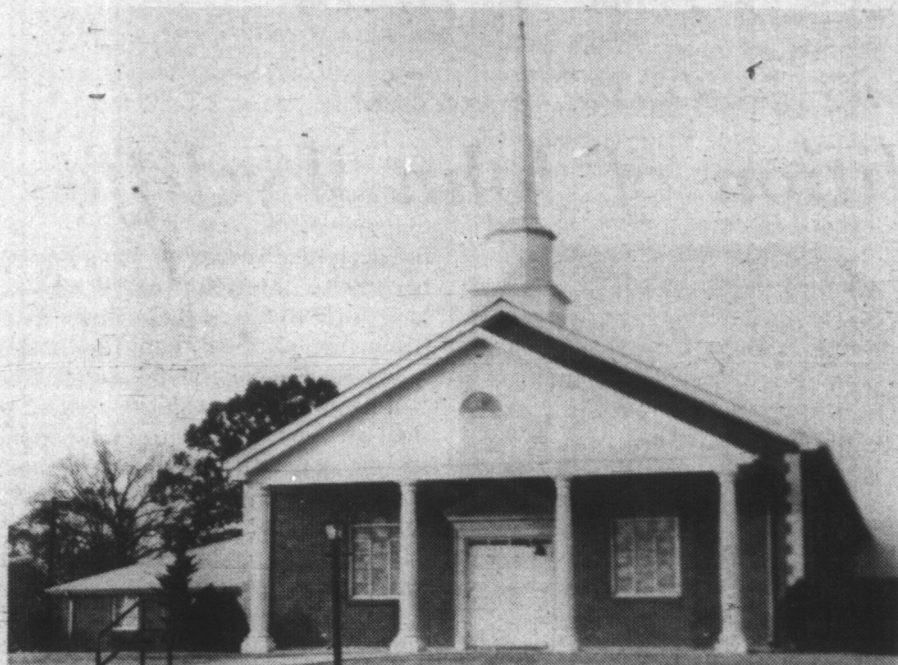
As I read of the charges and counter charges made by some leading T.V. preachers, I can imagine the crushing blow to a good number of Southern Baptist devotees to these ministries. My message, as a layman, is to Bap-

tist pastors. There are members of churches who are experiencing devastating disappointment and a sense of great loss and need to have addressed, from their pulpits, their pain.

A counselor working with a devoted wife who has just been deserted by an unfaithful husband knows that berating the character of the fickle mate will not do away with the pain. It is necessary to skillfully help the wife to work through her injured feelings. I have an idea that the loss now being experienced by Baptist supporters of some of these battling clerical broadcasters will need much the same therapeutic approach.

Jimmy Cotten
Jackson

Just for the Record



Noxapater Church (pictured) was erected in the summer of 1958. The first service held in this building was the last Sunday in November, 1958. Indebtedness was paid off in October 1961, and dedication services were held Nov. 26, 1961, the third anniversary.

Noxapater Church to celebrate 150th

Noxapater Church, Noxapater, will celebrate its sesquicentennial with homecoming and lunch, April 26. The church started with 11 members in 1937 and in 1987 has 384 members. The church was originally called Mt. Carmel and the name was changed to Noxapater Baptist in January 1953. The church has ordained five preachers, John Henry Gunn, Grady Hickman, Ron Boswell, John Lewis Gainer, and Jackie Barker.

The speaker for the 11 a.m. service will be Earl Kelly, executive secretary, MBCB. The afternoon program begins at 2 p.m. with the following pastors and music directors being introduced: Silas Johnson, Plantersville; Ivor Clark, Wesson; W. B. Abel, Noxapater; Leo Barker, Baldwyn; Gowan Ellis, Terry; James Walker, Meridian, (interim); and Bill Anderson, present pastor.



First Church, Gautier, held a GA and Acteen Recognition Service, Feb. 15. Pictured, receiving recognition are, first row, Reba Koski, senior high Acteen leader, Leslie Koski, Connie Crane, and Bonnie Barker, completing Mission Adventures No. 6.

Second row, Barbara Haygood, junior high Acteen leader, Vicki Haygood, queen; Laura Burnett, queen; Kristi Haygood, queen with scepter; Ember West, queen; and Francelle Sanderford, senior high Acteen leader.

Third row, Lisa Marks, queen regent in service; Lara Usher, queen regent; Gina Brooks, queen regent in service; Angie Price, queen regent in service; and Margaret Sullivan, junior high Acteen leader.

Fourth row, Laurie Gautier, queen regent in service; Ashley Sanderford, queen regent in service; Kelli Sullivan, queen regent in service; and Sara Barker, queen regent in service.

Billy R. Williams is pastor.



Acteens at Grace Church, Philadelphia, recently held their coronation ceremonies. Pictured, from left, back row, are Brigit Burkes, queen; Christy Copeland, queen; Mechelle Willis, queen with scepter; Melissa Kilgore, queen with scepter and queen regent; Britta Burkes, queen; Sheila Wells, queen; and Amy Burnett, queen. Attendants, from left, front row, are Chasity Akins, Wendy White, Leigh Willis, Erica Holley, Kristen Lackey, Leslie Sanders, and Ashley Warren. Mrs. Sherry Hazelwood and Mrs. Darlene Sistrunk are the Acteen leaders.

The Sanctuary Choir of Old Pearl Valley Church, Philadelphia, will present the Easter musical, "The Third Day," April 12, at 6:30 p.m. Sammy McDonald is pastor.

The Chancel Choir of Woodville Heights Church, Jackson, will present the Easter musical drama, "Joy Comes in the Morning" by David Danner, with live orchestra, April 12. The times will be 4 and 7 p.m. Raymond Ball is minister of music. Hueston Adkins is pastor.

The Sanctuary Choir of First Church, Natchez, will present "The Easter Event," Apr. 17, 18, and 19, at 8 p.m. David Ford will be featured portraying Jesus. The program will be performed by 75 members of the choir and a cast and crew of over 200. Tickets are required and may be obtained through the church office but there is no charge.

Ken Miller is minister of music. Odean Puckett is pastor.

Members of First Baptist, Louise, have placed cushions on the pews as a memorial to Mrs. Lottie Cook, E. J. Lee, Floyd Johnson, and Johnnie Sandlin. C. C. Ard is pastor.

Calvary Church, Columbus, celebrated its 50th anniversary on April 5 with an all day program. The program featured a special morning worship service, lunch and fellowship, a historical display depicting the church's 50 year history, and a time of remembrance as former pastors and staff members recalled their days at Calvary. Roy D. Hawkins is pastor.

Simpson Baptist Association Brotherhood sponsored a team of 18 men to go to Jones County to help in rebuilding on March 14. W. C. Allen, Brotherhood director, led in this promotion.

The Sanctuary Choir of First Church, Byram, will present a musical, "Then Came the Morning," by Bill and Gloria Gaither, on Friday, April 17, at 7 p.m. and Sunday, April 19, at 11 a.m., announce James W. Buie, pastor, and Jimmy Bilbo, minister of music.

Washington Assoc. to have dedication

The Washington County Baptist Association's new office building will have a dedication service and open house on April 12.

Earl Kelly, executive secretary of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, will be guest speaker for the service which will be from 2-2:30. Open house will be 2:30-4 p.m. The address is 1431 S. Colorado in Greenville. Roy Raddin is director of missions.

When one door of happiness closes, another opens. But often we look so long at the closed door that we do not see the other which has been opened for us. — Helen Keller

The man who walks close to God will leave no room for the devil to come between. — Walter E. Isenhour



Shady Grove Church, Lincoln County broke ground, October 1984, on an acre of land donated by Walter McDavid for a new pastorage.

Today there stands an \$80,000 home on which most of the work was done by members of the church. Only \$13,000 had to be borrowed and on March 22, 1987, a note burning ceremony was observed.

Pictured, standing in front of the house, are members of the building committee and deacons. Left to right are Pearl McCullough, Peggy McCullough, Elrea Hux, James Hux, Bobby Nelson, Herman Moak, James Quin, Oscar Cole, Devon Guy, Farno Green, and Charlie Seale, pastor. Members of the committee not pictured are Sandra Jordan, Pete Rawls, Katherine Rawls, and Robert Bryant (deceased).

The Sanctuary Choir of FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF BYRAM invites you to attend their presentation of **THEN CAME THE MORNING**

by Bill & Gloria Gaither
Friday, April 17, 7:00 p.m.

and
Sunday, April 19, 11:00 a.m.
James W. Buie, Pastor
Jimmy Bilbo, Minister of Music



EVANGELIST, DAVID RING

has relocated to Orlando, Florida. He is traveling out of the First Baptist Church as their staff evangelist.

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Staff Changes

S. D. Broome has been called as minister of music at Mt. Zion, Rankin Association. He comes from First Church, Palm City, Fla., where he was minister of music. He is also employed as a piano technician at Mississippi Music. He is a Sumrall native. Tommy Bufkin is pastor.

Charlie Cooper, pastor of First Rosedale, has resigned to accept the pastorate of Rienzi Church.

Barry A. Clingan began his ministry as pastor of Lincoln Road Church, Hattiesburg, Feb. 1. He and his wife, the former Miss Amy Thornburg, are natives of Chattanooga, Tenn. Clingan is the former pastor of East Valley Church, Dunlap, Tenn. He has been involved in church planting mission work in Brazil. He is a 1985 graduate of Bryan College, Dayton, Tenn. and will receive the master of divinity degree from New Orleans Seminary May of 1987.

Clingan

involved in church planting mission work in Brazil. He is a 1985 graduate of Bryan College, Dayton, Tenn. and will receive the master of divinity degree from New Orleans Seminary May of 1987.

Highland Chapel, Rt. 2, Pass Christian, recently called Ronald T. Meeks as its pastor. Meeks is a graduate of Blue Mountain College and New Orleans Seminary. He is working on his doctoral degree at the seminary. He was ordained to the gospel ministry by Oakland Church, Corinth. A native of Corinth, he is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Elmer Meeks of Corinth.

Chuck McMinn has recently been called as minister of music/youth by First Church, Lexington. He attended Holmes Junior College and Delta State University. He goes to Lexington from West Marks Church, Marks. He and his wife, the former Carla Mason of Flora, have two children, Carrie, three, and Taylor, two.

Meeks

McMinn

Victor Payne has accepted the call of First Church, Charlotte, N. C. to become minister of education, effective Easter Sunday. Payne goes from Citadel Square Church, Charleston, S.C., where he served as minister of adults and evangelism. Payne is a native of Lucedale, and a 1965 graduate of Mississippi College. He previously served as assistant to the pastor of Calvary Church, Jackson, and pastor of Drew Church, Drew. Payne is married to the former Peggy Langley of Laurel. They have two children, Cathy, BSU president of Carson-Newman College in Tennessee, and Jim, 16 years old. Joe N. McKeever is pastor.

Immanuel Church, Cleveland, has called Steve Glass as minister of music/education and youth activities. He goes from the Huerta Church, Lufkin, Tex. He is a graduate of New Orleans Seminary. He and his wife, Jennie, have two daughters, Tiffany and Stevie.

Close your eyes to the faults of others, and you open the doors of friendship. (William A. Ward)

Revival Dates

Oloh (Lamar): Apr. 12-16; Jerry Pipes, director of Completeness Ministries, evangelist; Debra Pipes, special music; Keith Owens, minister of music, Oloh, leading singing; Tim Patrick, pastor.

Spring Hill (Marshall): Apr. 19-22; Sunday, 11 a.m., 7 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7:30 p.m.; evangelist John Wilton, missionary from South Africa; Jimmy Elmore, music director; Billy Mitchell, pastor.

Murphy Creek, Louisville: Apr. 19-24; Sunday, 6:30 p.m.; weekdays, 7 p.m.; Danny Lanier, Little Rock, evangelist; Skeet Davis, West Point, music evangelist; Arnold Davis, pastor.

Cherry Park, Clinton: Apr. 19-22; Sunday services, 7 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7:30 p.m.; Scott Hamric, evangelist; Hollis Alderman, pastor.

Emmanuel, Pearl: Apr. 12-17; 7 nightly; Malcolm Lewis, evangelist; Alan Black, music evangelist; Tommy Anderson, pastor.

Briar Hill, Florence: Apr. 12-16; Sunday, 11 a.m., 7:15 p.m.; Mon.-Thurs., 10:30 a.m., 7:30 p.m.; Stanley Barnett, evangelist; Wilson Winstead, pastor.

First, Terry: Apr. 12-17; Joel Haire, Crystal Springs, preaching; Bill Bacon, Clinton, music; 11 a.m., 7 p.m., Sunday; 10:30 a.m., 7:30 p.m., Mon.-Fri.

Names in the News

Mrs. Bettie Garrett, 85 year-old mother of Justus Garrett, pastor of Parkway Church, Macon, Ga., lost her life March 10 from smoke inhalation in a fire which did major damage to their home. Garrett was on the staff of First Church, Hattiesburg, and was pastor of Temple Church, Petal, and Emmanuel Church, Biloxi, before going to Georgia in 1971.



Odell Tebo, (pictured with wife) pastor of Good Hope Church, Leake County, received a certificate of appreciation and a suit on Pastor Appreciation Sunday, March 15. The women gave his wife, Johnnie, an all-weather coat.

Anthony Norris, son of Mr. and Mrs. David Norris of Scobey, won a national award for a school project. Norris, a third-year student in the School of Dentistry at University of Mississippi Medical Center, shared this award with Noel Toler III of Jackson. They won a \$5,000 scholarship in the Warner-Lambert Preventive Dentistry Scholarship program for their work with the blind listeners of the Mississippi Radio Reading Service.

David Norris is pastor of Wayside Church, Scobey.

Joe Anderson of First Church, Boyle, will be leading an evangelism team to Brazil which will be leaving on May 29 and returning on June 17. In addition to Anderson, the team will be made up of Larry Braswell and Jeff McCreary. This team will be leading four revivals during their time in the country. This assignment will be to the North Brazil Mission, as part of the Foreign Mission Board's partnership program.

Group 'regrets' policy on women

ATLANTA (BP) — Moderate-conservative leaders in the Southern Baptist Convention have voiced regret over the 44-24 vote by directors of the denomination's Home Mission Board refusing to reconsider a policy that prohibits HMB financial support of ordained women pastors.

Henry W. Crouch of Charlotte, N.C., president of the Southern Baptist Alliance organized by moderate-conservatives on Feb. 12, attended the Home Mission Board meeting and issued a prepared statement in an informal press conference immediately after adjournment.

"We regret that the directors of the Home Mission Board have refused to rescind their October 1986 decision not to fund churches in mission situations who have women as pastors," said Crouch.

He added the Southern Baptist Alliance would serve as a financial channel to fund qualified churches in mission settings who choose women as pastors if the Home Mission Board will not. The alliance, Crouch said, is an organization of individuals and churches "committed to historic Baptist principles, freedoms and traditions."

Mississippi Baptist activities

- Apr. 12 Cooperative Program Day — In all churches (STEW Emphasis)
- Apr. 13-14 Secretaries Conference; Camp Garaywa; 1 p.m., 13th-4 p.m., 14th (CAPM)
- Apr. 16 Children and Evangelism Seminar; Baptist Building; 10 a.m.-3 p.m. (EVAN/SS)
- Apr. 17-18 Youth Missions Conference; Gulfshore Assembly; 3 p.m., 17th-3 p.m., 18th (BRO/WMU)



REVISED

SCHEDULE

Effective

January 11,

1987

CST	SUN.	MON.	TUES.	WED.	THUR.	FRI.	SAT.
5:00	Part Groom David Wade	Sargent Preston Lesse	Sargent Preston Lesse	Sargent Preston Lesse	Sargent Preston Lesse	Sargent Preston Lesse	Lane Ranger Cartoon Coco Kid
6:00	Changed Lives One in the Spirit	Vegetable Soup Cope	Viva Alegre Cope	Sunshine Factory Cope	Carriaco- Lencas Cope	Infirmary Factory Cope	Moody Science Family Foundations
7:00	Catch the Spirit This is the Life	Sunshine Factory	Sunshine Factory	Sunshine Factory	Sunshine Factory	Sunshine Factory	Sunday School Lesson Dewey and Guthrie
8:00	Methodist Hour	Prime Timers Country Crossroads	Profiles Great Churches	Word of Life In Concert	Heaven Dimension Great Churches	All Home With the Bible Invitation to Life	Sunshine Factory Sagittarius Hospital
9:00	In Touch	Que Pasa	Bill Cosby	Shan Lewes	Mickey Rooney	Rebop	Sagittarius Kangaroo Lane Ranger Cartoon
10:00	Joy of Music Gloria	Life Today	Life Today	Life Today	Life Today	Life Today	Coco Kid Our World
11:00	ACTS Presby- terian Hour	Sunshine Factory Sargent Preston	Sunshine Factory Sargent Preston	Sunshine Factory Sargent Preston	Sunshine Factory Sargent Preston	Sunshine Factory Sargent Preston	In Concert
12:00	The Baptist Hour	Lesse	Lesse	Lesse	Lesse	Lesse	Country Crossroads
1:00	Christopher Closeup The Sunday Selections	Sunshine Factory Psychiatry and You	Sunshine Factory Psychiatry and You	Sunshine Factory Psychiatry and You	Sunshine Factory Psychiatry and You	Sunshine Factory Psychiatry and You	Jim Houston Outdoors Super Handyman
2:00		Cope Daily	Cope Daily	Cope Daily	Cope Daily	Cope Daily	Plant Groom David Wade
3:00	Great Churches	Encore Theatre	Encore Theatre	Encore Theatre	Encore Theatre	Encore Theatre	Dewey and Guthrie Sunshine Factory
4:00	Joy of Music Gloria	Sargent Preston	Sargent Preston	Sargent Preston	Sargent Preston	Sargent Preston	Sagittarius Kangaroo Lane Ranger Cartoon
5:00	ACTS Presby- terian Hour	Lesse	Lesse	Lesse	Lesse	Lesse	Country Crossroads
6:00	This is the Life Memorial Hour	Bill Cosby Life Today	Shan Lewes Life Today	Mickey Rooney Life Today	Dewey and Guthrie Life Today	Lane Ranger Cartoon Life Today	Sagittarius Kangaroo Lane Ranger Cartoon
7:00	Changed Lives One in the Spirit	Profiles	Word of Life In Concert	Music Is	First Things First	Prime Timers	David Wade
8:00	One in the Spirit Catch the Spirit	Great Churches	In Concert	Great Churches	Invitation to Life	Country Crossroads	In Concert
9:00	Baptist Hour Evening Worship	Cope	Cope	Cope	Cope	Cope	Moody Science Family Foundations
10:00	Christopher Closeup Sunday Selections	Encore Theatre	Encore Theatre	Encore Theatre	Encore Theatre	Encore Theatre	Sunday School Lesson This is the Life
11:00		Bill Cosby	Shan Lewes	Mickey Rooney	Rebop	Que Pasa	Christopher Closeup Westbrook Hospital
12:00	Gloria	Life Today	Life Today	Life Today	Life Today	Life Today	Our World
1:00		Profiles	Word of Life In Concert	Music Is	First Things First	Prime Timers	Super Handyman
2:00	Methodist Hour	Cope	Cope	Cope	Cope	Cope	Plant Groom David Wade
3:00	The Baptist Hour	Encore Theatre	Encore Theatre	Encore Theatre	Encore Theatre	Encore Theatre	Moody Science Family Foundations
4:00	Christopher Closeup Super Handyman						Sunday School Lesson Sagittarius Kangaroo

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The Mississippi Mission

Statewide participation continues

The Congregational Gifts Division assumes the responsibility to carry the Mississippi Mission to 1944 churches in the state. To facilitate organization the state has been divided into six regions. The list below indicates the positive response of churches across the state this week.

GREATER COMMITMENT

Region A	Target Range	Pledged
Chinese, Cleveland	\$ 2-3,000	\$ 2,500
Shaw, Shaw	11-12,000	12,000
Region B		
Falkner, Falkner	11-13,000	13,125
Region E		
Berwick, Liberty	4-5,000	5,000
GREAT COMMITMENT		
Region A		
Main Street, Goodman	7-8,000	7,500
Region B		
First, Vardaman	14-16,000	15,000
First, New Albany	110-132,000	125,000
Region C		
First, Eupora	52-62,000	52,000

Cope Schedule — ACTS Network

Date:	Guest:	Topic:
Fri., April 10	CD Karen Hayter CP Sharon Powell	Abusive Relationships Elderly Parents & Adult Children
Mon., April 13	CD Frank Minirth CP Don Hawkins	Psychiatric Disorders How To Beat Burnout
Tues., April 14	CD Mary Lee Hafley CP Dr. Ken Pepper	Parenting Marriage Relationships
Wed., April 15	CD Ron Rose CP Jane Warford	Common Sense Discipline Self-Esteem
Thurs., April 16	CD Ben Loring CP Ben Loring	Open Lines Open Lines
Fri., April 17	CD Carolyn Gehring CP Bob Gehring	Families of Alcoholics Alcohol & Drug Abuse

CD = DAY COPE
CP = NIGHT COPE

Southwestern trustees elect four to faculty

FORT WORTH, Texas (BP) — Trustees of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary elected four faculty members, adopted a record \$18.79 million budget and approved a two-track master of divinity degree program at their spring meeting March 9-11.

The board also unanimously commended seminary President Russell Dilday for his role in the "Glorieta Statement" issued by the six Southern Baptist Convention seminary presidents Oct. 20, 1986.

Trustee James T. Draper Jr. introduced the resolution expressing "appreciation to the president for his leadership in the Glorieta Statement." Draper said Dilday had been instrumental in presenting the statement and has "not equivocated from it."

In the Glorieta Statement, the six presidents pledged to help bring an end to the current controversy in the SBC.

New faculty include James C. Denison, instructor in philosophy of religion; Raymond E. Higgins II, instructor in Christian ethics; James T. Spivey Jr., instructor in church history; and Dennis K. Parrish, instructor in communications.

Changes in the master of divinity

degree plan create three new courses, increase requirements in three others and establish an optional non-language track.

New courses are "Biblical Hermeneutics," a two-hour course for first-year students; "Use of Biblical Language Tools," a two-hour course for the non-language track; and "Pastoral Care of Grieving Persons," a two-hour course.

Requirements in both church history and systematic theology will increase from four hours to six. Also, a two-hour foundations of education class will be required.

MDiv students will complete 92 hours of requirements for a degree, an increase of four hours. Students in the new track will replace language classes with 10 hours in designated electives and the two-hour course on using biblical language tools.

The 1987-88 budget of \$18.79 million is 2.5 percent larger than the current year's budget of \$18.33 million. It includes a 1.5 percent salary increase for faculty and staff.

Gifts through the SBC Cooperative Program will provide 42 percent of the total budget. Other sources are student fees, 19 percent; gifts and endowment, 21 percent; and other operating sources, 18 percent.

Bailey Smith joins PTL board

By Bob Terry

ST. LOUIS (BP) — Former Southern Baptist Convention President Bailey Smith has accepted a position on the board of directors of the PTL television ministry following the resignation of evangelist Jim Bakker.

Smith, a full-time evangelist, said he was offered the post after Charles Stanley, pastor of First Baptist Church, Atlanta, and immediate past president of the SBC, declined appointment to the board.

Smith explained he accepted the position, in part, because he did not want to see the "PTL giant fall into the wrong hands." He said this was an opportunity for Southern Baptists to influence the future direction of the PTL television ministry.

"We should be grateful to Jerry Falwell for giving Southern Baptists this opportunity," he said. Falwell is chairman of the PTL board after being given the ministry in a private meeting by PTL founder and former President Bakker.

A change in PTL programming is

in the works if Smith has his way. "I don't want to say too much," he said, "but I agree with Jerry Falwell that anything takes on the stance of its leaders." After noting it will take time to make the changes, Smith added, "If Baptists have questions about this, I hope they will just be patient."

Smith noted the new PTL board represents a wide range of evangelical leaders including Baptists, Methodists, and Presbyterians. Only one new board member, former Secretary of the Interior James Watt, comes from the Assemblies of God, the denomination of the former PTL leader.

Each director was hand picked by Falwell, Smith said, adding "Now it is his (Falwell's) ministry. He is in total charge."

Smith said he was glad he had not been placed on the board's executive committee or audit committee because his preaching schedule would not permit him to attend all the meetings that would necessitate.

One PTL board meeting has been

held since Smith's appointment. He said he was impressed by the property operated by PTL and the financial condition of the ministry. Contributions to PTL have increased 17 percent since Bakker's resignation, he said.

In another matter related to PTL, Jimmy Allen, president of the Southern Baptist Radio and Television Commission, said he finds "no reason to rejoice because of what has happened" with the PTL ministry.

"All of us involved in proclaiming the gospel on radio and television must now work harder to make certain that the message is not discredited," he added. "The answer, I think, lies in doing the Lord's business in public."

He said the ACTS network is owned by 37,000 Southern Baptist churches cooperating as a convention. The network reports annually to the convention, and the commission's audit "is published for all Southern Baptists to study," he said, adding commission trustees are elected by the convention.

Terry edits the Word and Way.

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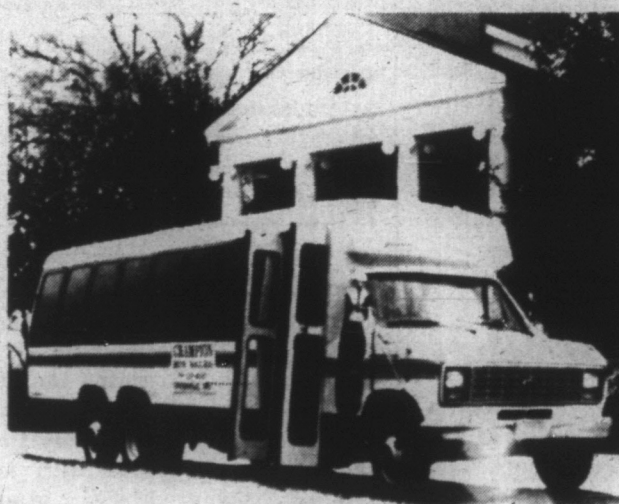
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Acceptance of Jesus' death on the cross means victory

By Robert M. Hanvey
Luke 23:32-48

"When Jesus had cried with a loud voice, he said, Father, into thy hands I commend my spirit: and having said thus, he gave up the ghost" (Luke 23:46). The death of the Lord Jesus Christ on the cross or on the tree is indeed that which gives to you and to me impetus for living. We see what he gave in response to God's request. We see what he gave in terms of man's need. We see that he gave himself. Jesus gave his life so that we could have the fullness of life now and forevermore. This life comes by faith in him as Lord and Savior.



Hanvey

The concern which we have from our focal passage this week is that we learn to explain the meaning of Jesus' death in terms that a lost person would be able to understand and trust the Lord as personal Savior.

When we work with the crucifixion of Christ

we learn that Jesus was crucified as if he were a common criminal. You recall the mockery of the trial. You recall to mind that he was treated rudely and sarcastically. He was robbed in the regal robes of kingship. He was mocked by the soldiers who robbed him. Jesus was crucified and while he was being crucified he was praying for God to forgive those who were taking his life.

Isn't that amazing in terms of what Jesus was all about? He loved mankind. He loved the good. He loved the bad. All were in need of his saving grace and he loved them equally; even those who were taking his life. He loved the Jewish leaders who brought the false accusations. He loved the soldiers who reacted or who responded to the orders of those in charge. He was responsive to the thief. Jesus said, "Today you will be with me in paradise," meaning simply that wherever Jesus was going to be that's where the thief would be. Jesus was go-

ing to be in heaven in the presence of his Father and that's where the thief was going to be. We believe that in death we are ushered into the presence of God. Just as the thief was, so shall we be because of our faith in him.

During the moments of Jesus' death the sun was dark and the temple veil was rent showing God's dismay, God's concern, and God's reaction to Jesus' death as well as opening the door of access to Almighty God. Jesus commended his life to his Father. To whom else would he commend it? He gave his spirit to the Father who had sent him for this hour. This was an hour of agony. It was an hour of disgust. It was an hour of turmoil.

For the disciples, it was an hour of searching. It was an hour of looking into one's self and asking who is this Christ, what is he all about, what has he done, what is he doing, what does the future hold? Even the centurion considered Jesus to be a righteous man and gave that confession of his belief.

When we examine the death of Jesus, the example of Jesus' forgiveness can lead us to forgive people. For those who have done wrong-

ly against us, it is our duty and our privilege to forgive them. The example of Jesus' forgiveness can help us to know what is God's will for our lives in terms of forgiving people. Remember that God said, "If we do not forgive others, he does not forgive us."

The agony and the shame of the crucifixion can help us as adults to realize the length to which God went in order that man might know of his redeeming love through Jesus Christ. This redeeming love is an offer of salvation to all. This redeeming love is sufficient to take in all who will believe. The words of Jesus to the repentant thief can assure people today of his validity and his availability to forgive.

As we look at the crucifixion of our Lord in this lesson, we have to be reminded of his great love, his great concern, and his great sacrifice for all mankind. The world will never know a greater love. The world will never have an opportunity to respond to a greater love. Death on the cross and the acceptance of that death can mean victory in one's life.

Robert M. Hanvey is pastor, First, Hazlehurst.

Sanhedrin leaders are rejecting God's authority

By Nathan L. Barber
Luke 20:9-18

The triumphant entry of Jesus into Jerusalem, his insistence that the temple be properly viewed, and his powerful teaching in the temple itself were all fresh in their minds and created a challenge to their own authority. In fact authority had become the major issue and the reason behind their direct question. Those asking the question were probably representatives of the Sanhedrin,



Barber

Israel's highest official authority. "Tell us by what authority you are doing these things, or who is the one who gave you this authority?"

In the manner of a seasoned Rabbi, Jesus answered their question by asking a question. When he asked them to state their opinion concerning the authority of John, he unmistakably linked his own ministry to that of the baptizer. They were fully aware that Jesus had accepted John's baptism, that John was considered by the masses to have been a prophet of God.

After a brief conference to discuss the con-

LIFE AND WORK

sequences of their answer, they decided that the least amount of damage would be done by declaring that they did not know where John's authority originated. Jesus knew that their spoken answer only veiled the fact that they did not choose to answer plainly. So he responded that he would not tell them by what authority he ministered either. However, Jesus' parable concerning this matter revealed the source of his authority with great clarity.

In the parable God is represented by the man who planted the vineyard and rented it out to vine-growers or tenant farmers. The vineyard represents all the nations of the world as Jesus referred to in Matt. 28:19, Mark 16:15, and Luke 24:47. (This is unlike the parable of Is. 5:1-7 where Israel is the vineyard. The emphasis of both Isaiah and Luke is God's judgement concerning Israel's lack of producing good fruit.)

Israel is represented by the tenant farmers who reject the authority of the vineyard's owner. The phrase "on a journey for a long time" represents the interval between Ex.

19:3-8, where Israel accepted the covenant-call of God to be his servant people, and the lifetime of Jesus in which he had come to the tenant farmers on the authority of the owner/Father. The slaves represent the prophets who had been sent time after time to call Israel back to her destiny as God's servant people.

Jesus, himself, is represented by the beloved son who goes in the name of the vineyard owner to the tenant farmers in order to salvage their position of responsibility in the vineyard. If the tenant farmers would repent and receive the owner's son, the past would be forgiven.

The tenant farmers, however, are unwilling to recognize the authority in which the son came to them. Instead they decided to kill the beloved son (3:22) and claim the son's inheritance. But they failed to understand the importance of the vineyard to its owner; now they must account to the owner, himself, for their lack of stewardship over the vineyard and for rejecting the authority of his beloved son.

Jesus proclaimed the results of Israel's failure to perform as "a kingdom of priests and a holy nation" (Ex. 19:6) in Matt. 21:43, "Therefore I say to you, the kingdom of God will be taken away from you, and be given to a nation producing fruit of it." This verse is parallel

to verse 15 of the focal passage and helps one to understand precisely what Jesus meant. "God forbid" or "May it never be!" proclaimed the representatives of Israel's supreme authority.

But Jesus demonstrates the truth of what he had said as he reminded them of Ps. 118:22, "The stone which the builder rejected, has become the chief cornerstone." He compares Israel to the builders of a great building. The builders rejected a certain stone (Jesus) which eventually became the chief cornerstone for the entire structure (the people of God). Even though the builders did not recognize the cornerstone when they saw it, the Divine Architect of this "spiritual house" (I Peter 2:4-10) would accept nothing less than the Rock of Ages.

God had been patient with Israel. However now a new covenant (Luke 22:20; Heb. 8:7-13) would be effected with the New Israel (the church), his new servant people (Matt. 21:28-32). But one might ask, "What is God's attitude toward Israel, the people of God in the Old Testament?" Romans 11:23 declares, "And they also, if they do not continue in their unbelief, will be grafted in; for God is able to graft them in again."

Barber is pastor, First, Bay St. Louis.

Job's anguished search for answers: the grief process

By Charles Wesley

Job 3:2-3; 8:3-9; 9:1-3; 13:18-24; 14:13-15

Any time a tragedy strikes that results in loss we can expect to experience acute grief. That is only natural and Job was no exception.



Wesley

Psychologists have pointed out that we move through various stages in the grief process including shock, denial, eruption of emotions, anger, guilt, depression, affirmation of hope, and readjustment. If the grieving person does not move through the grief process, the person may experience physical, emotional, and spiritual problems. As we study the book of Job we can trace Job's pilgrimage through the grief process. In this week's lesson we observe Job as he begins to deal with the grief associated with the loss of his wealth, children, and health.

At the end of chapter two we read about the arrival of three friends of Job for a visit. The friends' visit was for the purpose of offering sympathy and comfort (2:11). However, the friends were so overwhelmed by the ap-

pearance of Job and his tremendous grief that they expressed their sympathy by tearing their robes and weeping. Then the friends sat with Job in silence (2:12-13). For seven days their silent presence brought comfort to Job. There are times when presence and silence speak louder than words. We should remember that truth whenever we feel compelled to speak, but we know that our words would be inadequate to bring comfort. A forceful illustration is seen by the fact that when the friends finally speak, little comfort is given to Job.

Finally Job interrupts the silence by expressing his lament. Job did not believe he could cope with his suffering. Therefore, Job declares his wish that he had never been born (3:1). Furthermore, Job desired that the day of his birth be removed from history (3:3). Earlier, Job's wife told him to "curse God and die!" (2:9). But Job still refrained from cursing God; he only cursed the day of his birth. I cannot help but

wonder how Job would have responded to his tragedy if he had not possessed a strong faith in God. How would you respond if you were walking in Job's sandals?

We have little doubt that Job's friends had deep concern for Job. But when they began to speak they brought little comfort to Job. Instead, they gave advice to Job. Advice was not what Job needed, especially wrong advice. Bildad told Job that he should not question the actions of God (8:3). The problem with that advice is that Job's suffering was due to the actions of Satan, not God. In addition, Job was challenged concerning his righteousness and the righteousness of his children (8:4-8).

Bildad held to the popular theology of his day which said that when a person is righteous, God blesses him with good health and wealth, and when a person is sinful he experiences suffering. Again, Bildad's advice was faulty because righteous people do experience suffering. Is it not at least a little interesting to us that the popular theology of Job's day is popular today? People still proclaim that by trusting God you can be assured of riches. Those who believe the formula that trust in God plus a righteous life always equals good health and wealth set

themselves up for disillusionment when tragedy strikes.

Job did not quickly say "amen" to Bildad's words. Job desired answers to his question of "why?" However, Job recognized that Bildad's explanations were only partially true. Therefore, Job began to argue with the theology that says the righteous do not experience suffering. Job realized that no one is completely righteous (9:1-3), and that a person will experience the consequences of sinful behavior. But Job knew that he had not given cause for such suffering.

Later, Zophar challenged Job to repent of his iniquity and then he would again receive the blessings of God (11:14-17). However, Job would not accept Zophar's advice any more than Job would accept the advice of Bildad. Rather, Job desired to make his appeal to God where he believed he would receive a more just hearing (13:18-19). Also, Job had the hope that one day God would answer him, even if the answer had to come in the afterlife. Even though Job had not found the answers to his questions, he was still placing his hope in a sovereign God.

Charles Wesley is pastor, Morrison Chapel, Cleveland.

Baptist Record

Churches: "Consult Architect to build stronger families"

By Marv Knox & David Wilkinson

CHARLOTTE, N.C. (BP) — Southern Baptists must build stronger families by "consulting the Architect," Larry N. Baker urged at the conclusion of the Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission's annual seminar here March 23-25.

Baker — who was installed as the commission's fourth chief executive during the opening session of the seminar — used the Bible as a "plumb line" to urge churches to provide a supportive, caring environment for building families according to God's design.

"Let the church be brave enough and bold enough to care for the family in all its seasons and circumstances — and all who are in the family," Baker exhorted in the meeting's closing message. He urged the church "to be there" at the pivotal points for every family — marriage, parenting, illness, death.

"When dreams are shattered and hopes are dashed, when the heat of life's midday toil and pressure beats intensely on the family, let the church be a 'rock in a weary land' and give its coolness and shade as gifts to weary travelers," Baker said. "Let the church walk with our people through life's calm and storm, and in the end our families shall stand together, singing doxology for the journey."

Baker's message wrapped up three days of addresses dealing with some of the thorniest issues confronting today's families: pornography, domestic violence, teenage suicide, homelessness, aging, and various public policy concerns. More than 550 participants also heard a sobering description of the country's growing

AIDS crisis from U.S. Surgeon General C. Everett Koop and homespun depictions of family life from country humorist Jerry Clower.

During his installation service, Baker, who succeeded Foy Valentine a week earlier, proclaimed the Christian Life Commission stands on the threshold of a "grand new opportunity" during an age of moral crisis and dissatisfaction.

"The day in which we minister differs from others before," he said. "We will strike out in new directions in response to our call and under the impetus of God's Spirit . . . We will not be enslaved to a past; rather, we will do our best to live in faithfulness to God in our new day, to deal with issues current and to forge approaches that make it possible for Southern Baptists to respond effectively and to act responsibly in our world."

Baker's installation address was given by Bob R. Agee, president of Oklahoma Baptist University in Shawnee, who called for a "new agenda for the church" to correct the crisis of integrity that plagues America. He exhorted Southern Baptists to "renew our zeal, our commitment to be a strong, clear voice as representatives of our Lord in the midst of our nation's moral and ethical confusion."

Presenting the seminar's keynote address, "The Crisis in Today's Family," Joel Gregory pointed to two unique factors he said have destroyed modern American families: divorce and TV.

"Divorce is the one contemporary problem that didn't become major until after World War II," said Gregory, pastor of Travis Avenue Church, Fort

Worth. "The responsibility of our church is to sound as never before the clear teachings of Jesus concerning the marriage union," that it belongs to God's created order and is exclusive, effective, and permanent.

Gregory called for "absolute discipline in the lives of parents and children concerning the influence of television."

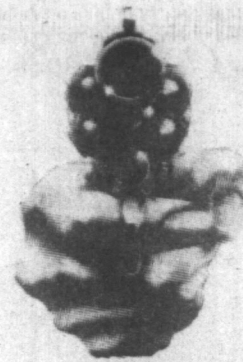
Surgeon General Koop enforced previous statements he had made regarding the need for AIDS education in American schools. AIDS victims are doubling annually and will number 250,000 by the 1990, he said, urging Americans to observe faithful monogamy with a faithful partner as the only certain precaution against the disease.

Koop challenged Southern Baptists to "write the definitive sex education curriculum. No one is better equipped to be in the vanguard of this important initiative than you are."

Humorist Clower called on Southern Baptists to "stamp out negativism," noting that malady "is the greatest culprit against the happy home." He advised them to put Christ first in their marriages and in their families, admitting his suggestion "is simple, but it sure ain't easy."

Knox is BP feature editor; Wilkinson writes for Southern Seminary.

You can make more friends in two months by becoming interested in other people than you can in two years to get other people interested in you. (Dale Carnegie)



Intensive care

Drugs are just as deadly as a loaded gun.

Don't take chances with your life

Waking up from a bad dream

The following is an excerpt from a letter received:

After reading your column, I felt the urge to write to you, and maybe my experiences can somehow help others. I feel that I am just now somewhat comfortable with myself and can deal with the hurts life has thrown at me.

I learned as a child that things were not right with my home and family. I grew up frustrated, hurt, and ran away from home twice. By the time I was seventeen, I was already drinking beer and doing drugs. In a short time, I almost smoked my brains out and became more miserable because of all my past and present problems. Jesus was introduced to me when I was a child, and I guess I called myself saved, although I did not act like it.

However, the Lord gave me quite a few worthy experiences to help reinforce his love for me. I learned through life's experiences that no one is without problems and all people need Christ. Now I feel that I can talk with people about my problems and not be an oddball. I know that the Lord loves me so much that he kept me safe so that I could maybe help others, and especially to know that Christ is my Savior.

I am aware there are other people who have problems. I also know that Satan is not through with me yet. Today I feel like I just waked up from a long bad dream, and now it's time to get busy telling people about Jesus.

Questions and comments addressed to Intensive Care are forwarded to Chaplain Joe Stovall at Mississippi Baptist Medical Center and are handled in consultation with the staff of the Chemical Dependency Center. Letters should be sent to the Intensive Care, Baptist Record, Box 530, Jackson, MS. 39205.

Press under construction to print Bibles in China

NEW YORK, N.Y., (ABS) — A completion date of May 31 has been set for constructing the building to house the Amity Printing Press outside Nanjing, People's Republic of China, the American Bible Society reports.

When the press begins operations — scheduled for late summer 1987 — the Amity Press will give priority to the printing of Bibles, New Testaments, hymnals, and other Christian literature.

ABS also reports that training of the staff who will run the presses and other equipment is already underway.

The state-of-the-art-machinery, together with its installation and supervision, is being paid for by donations to the United Bible Societies, the

world fellowship, through its members, including the American Bible Society.

Equipment includes a giant Timson Web Offset press together with associated bindery and other equipment needed to produce a complete book, starting with computerized typesetting equipment programmed in Mandarin Chinese script.

The commitment by UBS for the \$6.7 million installation was made by the request of Chinese Christians, who have themselves produced and distributed 1.8 million Bibles since 1980, but who are no longer able to meet the rapidly growing demand because of logjams at the commercial printers.

SCRAPBOOK

This Old Farm

As I look out across this old farm,
It means so much to me.
I see the years of hard work,
That most folks just can't see.

My Granddad cleared this old farm
With cross-cut, saw, and mules.
That was many years ago,
Before all these modern tools.

He must have thought of all these things,
The good times and the bad.
I'm sure his heart was filled with pride,
As he passed it to my Dad.

And Dad has had some rough times too,
But he never did complain.
I've seen him walk the floor at night,
When we were needing rain.

And Daddy loved this old farm,
He loved to till the land.
He said someday it would all be mine,
When I became a man.

As I look back at all the work,
I thought I had it good.
I'll never use a cross-cut saw
To cut my winter wood.

But farming's a lot different now
Than it was in Granddad's time.
If you lose a crop and miss a note,
They'll foreclose, . . . everytime.

And I've had my share of hard times,
Last year we had a loss.
And I face the saddest day of my life,
When this old farm is auctioned off.

I know that I'm not by myself,
It's happening everywhere.
What's going on, America?
In this land we hold so dear.

As I give up this old farm,
It's awfully hard to smile.
But I just want to thank you Lord,
For sharing it for awhile.

—Leonard Lindsey
March 1987

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